

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIESTE 00264

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT IT

SUBJECT:PREPARATIONS FOR REGIONAL CONGRESSES

1. SUMMARY. CONFUSION IN THE RANKS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND SOCIALISTS WITH EVIDENCE OF CONSIDERABLE DISAFFECTION AMONG THE LATTER OVER THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP'S DECISION TO PROVIDE A POLITICLA CRISIS ARE THE DOMINANT IMPRESSIONS AT THIS STAGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR DC AND PSI REGIONAL PARTY CONGRESSES. END SUMMARY.

2. TALKS WITH DC AND PSI PARTY LEADERS, GIORNALISTS, AND OTHER OBSERVERS IN RECENT DAYS HAVE GIVEN A PICTURE OF CONFLICTING AND FAR FROM RESOLVED PRESSURES WITHIN EACH OF THE PARTIES. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE DC LEFT (MOROTEL, FORZE NUOVE, BASE), WHICH REPRESENTS ABOUT 75PCT OF PART STRENGTH IN FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA, HAS PUT FORWARD A JOINT LIST OF DELEGATES TO THE REGIONAL

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CONGRESS IN EACH OF THE FOUR PROVINCES, THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT THIS FACADE OF UNITY CONCEALS SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENT WITHIN AND BETWEEN VARIOUS FACTIONS. THE QTE ZACCAGNINI LINE UNQTE WHICH IS THE NOMINAL RALLYING POINT OF THE DC LEFT IS, BY GENERAL ADMISSION, AMBIGUOUS ENOUGH TO ALLOW A VARIETY OF CONFLICTING INTERPRETATIONS, PARTICULARLY ON THE KEY ISSUE OF RELATIONS WITHE THE PCI. THIS HAS ALREADY LED TO SHARP POLEMICS BETWEEN VARIOUS EXPONENTS OF THE DC LEFT AT SOME RECENT PARTY

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GATHERINGS. ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE LACK OF A COMMON APPROACH

IS THE CRITICISM LEVELED PRIVATELY BY, AMONG OTHERS, THE DC PROVINCIAL SECRETARY IN GORIZIA (MOROTEO) AGAINST THE DC LEADERSHIP IN TRIESTE (ALSO MOROTEO) FOR ITS ALLEGED READINESS TO EMBRACE DISGUISED FORMS OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE.

3. NOT EVEN A FACADE OF UNITY IS BEING MAINTAINED BY THE QTE MODERATE UNQTE FORCES OF THE DC, WHICH WERE ABLE TO PRESENT A SINGLE COMPETING LIST ONLY IN UDINE PROVINCE. IN PORDENONE THE LEADER OF THE MOROTEO GROUP, SENATOR MONTINI, HAS OPTED OUT OF THE PRE-CONGRESS COMPETITION BY NEITHER SUBSCRIBING TO THE UNITARY LIST NOR PRESENTING A COMPETING LIST. IN GORIZIA AND TRIESTE OPPOSITION TO THE QTE ZACCAGNINI LINE UNQTE WAS SPLIT

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IN TWO AND THREE LISTS, RESPECTIVELY.

4. THERE IS ALSO CONSIDERABLE INDICATION THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING THE BROAD ADHERENCE TO HIS QTE LINE UNQTE, ZACCAGNINI'S PERSONAL STANDING IS FAR LESS SECURE IN THIS REGION THAN HAD PREVIOUSLY SEEMED THE CASE. SEVERAL LEADERS OF THE DC LEFT, INCLUDING THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES IN GORIZIA AND PORDENONE HAVE SAID PRIVATELY THAT ZACCAGNINI QTE LACKS WHAT IT TAKES UNQTE TO BE DC SECRETARY. HOWEVER THEY PERCEIVE A REAL DILEMMA IN HIS REMOVAL SINCE HE HAS SUCCEEDED IN WINNING A DEGREE OF EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, AS A SYMBOL OF A MORE DECENT PARTY, THAT HAS GIVEN THE DC A BADLY-NEEDED SHOT IN THE ARM.

5. INTRA-PARTY SUSPICIONS IN THE DC ARE BEING FED BY RUMORS OF A SECRET DEAL BETWEEN ANDREOTTI AND THE SOCIALISTS, AIMED AGAINST MORO. ACCORDING TO A JOURNALIST WHO SPOKE TO THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY OF THE PCI IN TRIESTE THE ALLEGED DEAL ALSO HAS THE TACIT BLESSING OF THE COMMUNISTS. ONE DC SOURCE ATTRIBUTED THE ALLEGED ANDREOTTI MOVE TO AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT MORO FROM ENTERING THE PARTY CONGRESS IN CONTROL OF BOTH THE PARTY (THROUGH ZACCAGNINI) AND THE GOVERNMENT, BUT TERMED THE MANUEVER QTE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS UNQTE. A PSI SOURCE INDICATED THAT THERE

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WAS CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF SUCH A DEAL, AND MUCH OF THE PSI CONFIDENTIAL

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DID VIEW MORO AS ENEMY NUMBER ONE, BUT HIS DIRECT INQUIRIES IN ROME HAD FAILED TO PRODUCE CONFIRMATION.

6. WHILE THE DC IS IN DISARRAY LARGE SEGMENTS OF THE PSI IN THIS REGION ARE IN BARELY VEILED OPPOSITION TO THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP'S CURRENT TACTICS. ACCORDING TO THE PSI PROVINCIAL SECRETARY IN PORDENONE THE ABRUPT DECISION TO PROVIDE A CRISIS HAS THROWN THE PARTY INTO CONFUSION, WITH A MAJORITY OF PARTY MEMBERS IN HIS FEDERATION ANGRY AND BEWILDERED. HE REJECTED THE THEORY THAT DE

MARTINO HAD BEEN FORCED BY GRASS-ROOTS PRESSURE IN THE PARTY TO OPEN THE CRISIS, STATING THAT IN NORTHERN ITALY, TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, ONLY THE MILAN FEDERATION HAD FAVORED AN IMMEDIATE CRISIS. HE NOTED, WITH SOME BITTERNESS, THAT MONTHS OF PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE CONGRESS WAS NOW WASTED SINCE THE CONGRESS WOULD BE DOMINATED BY THE IMMEDIATE ISSUE OF THE CRISIS AND WOULD FAIL TO PRODUCE THE URGENTLY NEEDED CLARIFICATION OF BASIS PARTY STRATEGY AND GOALS.

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